

"Unapproved Meeting Minutes"

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

JANUARY 11, 2007

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 11, 2007 at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:37 PM, by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley, with the following present:

Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members.

II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the

agenda.

III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair reported meeting with the Cumberland Lacrosse boosters and noted the upcoming school safety task force. He reported Mr. Thibodeau attended a parent drug awareness night at the high school. Mr. Crowley noted the Rules and Regulations subcommittee will be reviewing the Harassment policy , the handbook and a policy on school intruders. The Chair recognized Julio Acedveo and the students from Woonsocket Vocational Tech who tape the committee meetings for their national promos about substance abuse awareness.

Mr. Wood made a motion to seal the Executive Session minutes. Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.

IV. Comments from the Public - Representatives from Student Government at the high school reported on up-coming activities in January and February. Daniel Quaresma, a high school student, reported on many complaints of students about the conditions at the high school during renovations, including no ceiling tiles, lighting and gaps in the new window wall. He commented about the bathrooms, no locks for lockers and senior parking at Tucker Field. The Chair suggested he speak to Mr. Wood, chairman of the Property subcommittee. The Superintendent addressed many of the items and

invited students to the CHS2010 Building Committee meetings. She noted that they had done air quality tests at the high school and nothing was found to cause any health problems. Dr. Morelle asked students who have a problem to report to the office right away. Mr. Hicks commented on his perceived problems in special education at the high school. Mr. Rotella ruled Mr. Hicks out of order stating that he has union representation.

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Mr. Egan felt Mr. Hicks has a right to speak as a teacher. The Superintendent noted there was a chain of communication and Mr. McGarry has not informed her of any committee of teachers. Mr. McGarry reported they had formed a special education advisory committee and Mr. Hicks was inviting the school committee to attend.

The Chair noted that Ms. MacBeth has volunteered to meet with the special education teachers. Ms. Davis-Schenck displayed recent purchases in the amount of \$55.37 she made for her classroom. She commented on equipment that doesn't work, noting the time she has spent fixing the copier. Ms. Crowley commented on the inequity of playgrounds and the different experiences of students due to inadequate funding. She showed a set of math books that one school has a whole set for students because the parent group made the purchase. Mr. McGarry commented on attending the Town Council pre-budget meeting and hoped the school department didn't fall

victim to the budget woes. He noted deficient supplies and outdated textbooks. He stated the CTA would be as supportive as they can. He noted they were ready to file a grievance on behalf of the teachers at the elementary, middle and high school levels and presented the Superintendent with the grievance.

V. Reports of Standing Committee

A. Property Committee - Mr. Wood reported they received a report from Beacon Mutual on the technical wing and there are 17 violations.

Some will be taken care of in the 2010 plan. He recommended a walk-through of the auto and electrical areas, a cost analysis of the program and looking at other facilities. There will be more information at the meeting in February.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Police Report

B. Truancy Report

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Open Session 12/14/06

D. Facilities Report

E. Enrollment Report

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE removing the Open Session minutes of 12/14/06 from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the amended Consent Agenda.

Open Session Minutes 12/14/06 - Mr. Wood noted that he recommended a workshop based on the police reports. He didn't expect a task force; his intent at the last meeting was for a workshop to meet with teachers and the police Chief.

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On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the minutes of 12/14/06.

VII. Approval of Minutes

A. Executive Session 12/14/06, 12/21/06

B. Special Meeting 12/21/06

On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the minutes.

VIII. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent presented the following:

A. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the resignation of Barbara Goodrich, Building Secretary-Transitional Building Office at Cumberland High School, effective 1/5/2007.

B. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Military Leave of Derek Davenport, Social Studies Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 1/02/2007 with a return date of 2/26/2007 (budgeted).

C. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of KaraBeth Houle, Special Educator at Ashton School, effective 3/20/2007 returning for the 2007-2008 school year.

D. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Tara Maloney, Biology Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 4/1/2007 with a return date of 5/14/2007 (budgeted).

E. On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Maternity Leave of Amy Parent, Special Educator at Garvin School, effective 3/12/2007 with a return date of 6/6/2007 (budgeted).

F. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the resignation of Henry Brito, Computer Technician/Network Manager, system-wide, effective 1/23/2007. The Superintendent reporting the ad would be placed in Sunday's paper. In the interim she will be arranging for purchased services.

IX. Old Business

A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reporting the 3.5M Building Committee met, but is in limbo waiting on the Town Council.

He reported there will be another workshop on the 24th at the public Library. The Town Council did approve 21 or 27 trade contracts for the science wing and cafeteria upgrades so the committee will be breaking ground on those projects. The budget is running a deficit with CHS2010.

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That committee will meet this coming Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's conference room and the public is invited. Mr. Costa asked if there wasn't money to do one of the projects on the 3.5M Building Committee. Mr. Wood explained that one building was to be bid as an add/alternate because there isn't enough money to do the two all purpose rooms and it sounds like the town can't see additional money for two years. He noted that once renovations are started then ADA and fire code updates have to be added.

B. Search Committee Update - The Superintendent reported she will advertise for the position of Network Manager and that Mrs. MacBeth had recommended reviewing the pool of prior candidates. She is reviewing finalists for Technology Director. They are also placing ads for the high school principal and assistant principal.

X. New Business

A. Issues and Impacts Related to FY 2008 Budget - The

Superintendent reported on the meeting last night with the Town council, noting that pre-budget consultations in the past have been less formal and less public. She noted last year she presented an evidence based budget for the school department and will do so again this year. She reported there was a gap in the 10.93% budget proposal approved by the school committee and final appropriation from the town, but noted that they actually did receive more than the town initially planned on appropriating. She recognized the frustrations with the gaps in the budget. Dr. Morelle gave committee members a list of mandates regarding funding, noting it was interesting to see what was not mandated. She commented on some unfunded mandates such as bus service, building standards, guidance and PE programs, waste removal and holding primaries in the schools. The Superintendent ended her comments with the need to work together and not pit one against another.

B. Cumberland School Safety Task Force - The Superintendent read from the 12/14/06 minutes regarding a workshop rather than a task force and stated she believed they needed to schedule a small planning meeting with herself, the Chair, Chief Desmarais, the Principal of the high school and Mr. Wood. She noted they are making themselves available next week. Mr. Costa commented he would like to see a student involved.

XI. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent reported the custodians had installed alcohol gel dispensers in the library, cafeteria and classes in the elementary schools that did not have

classrooms with sink and hand soap. They received just over 400 dispensers from the state. Discussions were held with teachers and students about hand washing and a copy of the Department of Health letter was sent to parents. She thanked the nurse-teachers for providing absentee data.

XII. Comments from the Public - Mr. Thurston commented on attending the pre-budget workshop and it appeared the town was trying to lead the dance in funding the schools.

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Mr. Borden stated he they service approximately 175 students in the programs in the tech prep area and volunteered to be present for the walk through to represent those students.

XIII. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Ms. Beaulieu commented as someone who was in the audience at last year's budget hearings, this meeting was a first step. She also noted the PTO at Community had adopted a mission to support learning. Ms. MacBeth commented on last week's article in the Breeze about the 8th grade service learning project. The web site is www.northcumberlandmiddleschool.com. She noted there are links to other things of interest and hopes there will be a link to the school department's web page. Mr. Wood reported Cumberland Hill's 4th

and 5th grade students will be at Roger Williams College for the robotics competition this weekend and wished them well. He also reported there is a wrestling meet this Saturday at the Wellness Center. Mr. Thibodeau reported that he heard about the copy machine at Community being serviced 28 out of 30 days. The copiers will be discussed at the next school committee meeting. He noted he had a copy of the 1868 school department budget and in it were comments about the need for playgrounds and inequities at some of the seven districts.

XIV. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)

1. CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)

1. CTA/ICSE

2. Central Administrators' Contracts

3. Non-Contractual Salaries

4. Potential Litigation

Executive Session was not necessary.

XV. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner and Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Subject to approval by the School Committee